

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method of integrating the installation, on one or more target machines, of
2 software prerequisites with a to-be-installed (TBI) software application, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 determining if said TBI software application requires any software prerequisites;

5 obtaining all required software prerequisites;

6 creating a super image comprising the TBI software application wrapped with said
7 software prerequisites; and

8 distributing said super image to all machines on which said software application is
9 to be installed.

1 2. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step of creating a super image
2 comprises at least the steps of:

3 defining an object model representing the integrated software installation; and

4 populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the TBI
5 software application and said required software prerequisites.

1 3. A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said step of creating a super image
2 further comprises at least the step of instantiating one or more objects according to the
3 defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated object(s).

1 4. A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the instantiating step instantiates
2 an object for the the TBI software application and one or more component objects for each
3 of said prerequisites.

1 5. A method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising the step of using the
2 populated object model to install the TBI software application.

1 6. A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the step of using the populated
2 object model further comprises at least the steps of:

3 identifying one or more target machines on which the TBI software application is
4 to be installed;
5 downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and
6 performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the
7 downloaded super image.

1 7. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said super image is a temporary
2 file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the installation process.

1 8. A method for improving installation of software packages on one or more
2 target machines, comprising the steps of:

3 identifying, prior to installation, software prerequisites that need to be installed with
4 a particular software package;
5 obtaining said identified software prerequisites;
6 creating a super image comprising said software package and said identified
7 software prerequisites; and
8 distributing said super image to all target machines.

1 9. A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said step of creating a super image
2 comprises at least the steps of:
3 defining an object model representing the software installation being performed; and
4 populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the particular
5 software package and any required software prerequisites identified.

1 10. A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said step of creating a super image
2 further comprises at least the step of instantiating one or more objects according to the
3 defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated object(s).

1 11. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the instantiating step instantiates
2 an object for the particular software package and one or more component objects for each
3 of said identified software prerequisites.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of using the populated
2 object model to install the particular software package.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of using the populated object
2 model further comprises at least the steps of:

3 identifying one or more target machines on which the particular software package
4 is to be installed;

5 downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and

6 performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the
7 downloaded super image.

1 14. A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said super image is a temporary
2 file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the installation process.

1 15. A system of integrating the installation, on one or more target machines, of
2 software prerequisites with a to-be-installed (TBI) software application, comprising:

3 means for determining if said TBI software application requires any software
4 prerequisites;

5 means for obtaining all required software prerequisites;

6 means for creating a super image comprising the TBI software application wrapped
7 with said software prerequisites; and

8 means for distributing said super image to all machines on which said software
9 application is to be installed.

1 16. A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said means for creating a super
2 image comprises at least:

3 means for defining an object model representing the integrated software installation;
4 and

5 means for populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the
6 TBI software application and said required software prerequisites.

1 17. A system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said means for creating a super
2 image further comprises at least means for instantiating one or more objects according to
3 the defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated
4 object(s).

1 18. A system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said means for instantiating
2 instantiates an object for the the TBI software application and one or more component
3 objects for each of said prerequisites.

1 19. A system as set forth in claim 18, further comprising means for using the
2 populated object model to install the TBI software application.

1 20. A system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said means for using the populated
2 object model further comprises at least:

3 means for identifying one or more target machines on which the TBI software
4 application is to be installed;

5 means for downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and

6 means for performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using
7 the downloaded super image.

1 21. A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said super image is a temporary
2 file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the installation process.

1 22. A computer program product embodied on computer-readable medium for
2 integrating the installation, on one or more target machines, of software prerequisites with
3 a to-be-installed (TBI) software application, the computer program product comprising
4 executable instructions for:

5 determining if said TBI software application requires any software prerequisites;

6 obtaining all required software prerequisites;

7 creating a super image comprising the TBI software application wrapped with said
8 software prerequisites; and

9 distributing said super image to all machines on which said software application is
10 to be installed.

1 23. A computer program product as set forth in claim 22, wherein said computer
2 executable instructions for creating a super image include computer executable instructions
3 for:

4 defining an object model representing the integrated software installation; and
5 populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the TBI
6 software application and said required software prerequisites.

1 24. A computer program product as set forth in claim 23, wherein said computer
2 executable instructions for a super image further includes computer executable instructions
3 for: instantiating one or more objects according to the defined object model, and wherein
4 the computer executable instructions for populating the object model populates the
5 instantiated object(s).

1 25. A computer program product as set forth in claim 24, wherein computer
2 executable instructions for instantiating instantiates an object for the the TBI software
3 application and one or more component objects for each of said prerequisites.

1 26. A computer program product as set forth in claim 25, further comprising
2 computer executable instructions for using the populated object model to install the TBI
3 software application.

1 27. A computer program product as set forth in claim 25, wherein computer
2 executable instructions for using the populated object model further includes computer
3 executable instructions for:

4 identifying one or more target machines on which the TBI software application is
5 to be installed;
6 downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and
7 performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the
8 downloaded super image.

1 28. A computer program product as set forth in claim 22, wherein said super
2 image is a temporary file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the
3 installation process.